Future Life in the Light of Ancient Wisdom and Modern Science, by LOUIS ELBÉ. A. C. McClurg Co., Chicago, 1906. pp. xxviii, 382.

The object of this book is to present, in popular form, the evidence for human immortality. It is divided into two parts, the first appealing to the *consensus gentium*, the second to the results of modern science. In the former, the author passes in rapid review the testimony of prehistoric traditions and remains, the beliefs of savages, and the ideas of life after death entertained by Chinese, Egyptians, Hindus, Chaldeans, Gauls, Jews, Greeks and Romans. The notion of immortality "sums up the whole teaching of ancient wisdom." There follows a chapter on Christianity, with discussions of the Roman Catholic doctrine of purgatory and the Protestant conception of conditional immortality; and the part ends with a review of two modern systems, whose main tenets are drawn from antiquity,—spiritism and theosophy. The first of these makes man "a fallen god who remembers;" the second, a future god who is attempting to climb to heaven.

Passing to science, the author points out that astronomy suggests to us the possibility of a plurality of worlds and, by banishing a material heaven and hell, transfers the scene of our final destinies to an immaterial plane. Physics gives us the law of the indestructibility of matter and energy, which includes the indestructibility of past events, including the events of our consciousness. As physics appeals to the ether as the source of the most diverse manifestations of energy, so we may appeal to etheric radiations or an astral envelope as forming the necessary link between the immaterial soul and the physical body of man. True, "we are always confronted with a fundamental difficulty in endeavoring to prove the distinct existence" of an odic fluid; it still remains to be proved "that the deviations of the biometric needle are amenable to no other explanation;" the authenticity of photographs "is still a matter of dispute;" and experiments with phosphorescing calcium sulphide do no more—alas! poor Odic!—than identify the radiations with the *n*-rays of Blondlot. Still, when we take into account their externalization in the ethereal double, and the facts of long-distance telepathy, we are forced to admit that "the etheric movements by which we are wont to explain the action of the physical forces are not possessed of more certain reality;" and what carries conviction in the one case should do so in the other. Thus formulated, faith in survival seems "to be the inevitable consequence of the scientific conception of the human soul."

M. Elbé writes brightly, and his book is readable. He has a good deal of critical acumen, and a distinct power of marshalling arguments. But this book will, of course, convince those and those only who are already prepared to accept its conclusion.

H. E. HOTCHKISS.

Sociological Papers, II. By F. GALTON, P. GEDDES, M. E. SADLER, E. WESTERMARCK, H. HOEFFDING, J. H. BRIDGES and J. S. STUART-GLENNIE. Macmillan & Co., London, 1906. pp. xiii, 312.

The eleven original papers published in this volume fully maintain the high level of work reached in the previous publication of the Sociological Society. We here find sociology approached by many paths and envisaged in various ways; we find the widest divergence of opinion; but we also find an earnest spirit of co-operation, and a refreshing amount of solid thinking.

The historical approach to sociology is represented by Dr. Bridges' paper on "Some Guiding Principles in the Philosophy of History," and by three articles from the pen of Mr. Stuart-Glennie, entitled

respectively "The Place of the Social Sciences in a Classification of Knowledges," "The General Historical Laws, the Anthropological Bases of a Science of Socialization," and "The Application of General Historical Laws to Contemporary Events." The ethical approach finds its representatives in Professor Hoeffding, who writes on the Relation between Sociology and Ethics, and in Dr. Westermarck, who contributes an essay on the Influence of Magic on Social Relationships. An attempt to apply psychology to sociology is made in Professor Sadler's article, "The School in some of its Relations to Social Organization and to National Life." The biological course is pursued in three very important papers by Mr. Galton, all dealing with his own science of eugenics: "Restrictions in Marriage," "Studies in National Eugenics," and "Eugenics as a Factor in Religion." Finally, the geographical approach is represented by the second part of Professor Geddes' memoir on "Civics as Applied Sociology," the first installment of which appeared in the preceding volume. Not the least interesting part of the contents of the present collection is the Discussion—formal and informal, written and spoken —appended to the original papers. M. W. WISEMAN.

The Color Sensitivity of the Peripheral Retina, by JOHN WALLACE BAIRD. Published by the Carnegie Institution, Washington, May, 1905. pp. 80.

The first thirty-four pages of this paper are devoted to an exhaustive review of the work already done on peripheral vision. This review is exceedingly valuable, as it makes clear the present status of the problem.

Dr. Baird finds much greater uniformity of opinion with regard to the change observed in the tone of each color as its image is moved from the fovea to the periphery of the retina, than concerning the relative extension of the color fields, since the very decided differences in the methods employed by various investigators would naturally prove much more productive of disagreement in a strictly quantitative measurement than in the mere observations of a qualitative change.

Many investigators have failed to equate in brightness and intensity, the colors they have used. One field, for example, that of red, has been determined with an intense stimulus, and another field, in the same experiment, perhaps that for green, with a stimulus of less intensity. Under these circumstances, there seems to be no reason why any co-extension of fields should be discovered even though it really existed, since it is a well known fact that intensity of stimulus directly affects the visibility of a given color.

The following is a summary of the results so far agreed upon.

"It has been established that color sensitivity decreases gradually from the centre to the periphery of the retina; that every color stimulus is correctly recognized within a certain retinal zone, whose extent varies directly with the tone, the brightness (absolute and relative), the saturation, and the area of the stimulus, and with changing conditions of adaptation and of refraction; that under certain conditions[1] the zone of a certain red[2] is co-extensive with that of a green, while that of yellow is also co-extensive with that of blue; that the yellow-blue zone has a much wider extension than the red-green zone; that all colors, excepting the four mentioned above, pass through certain regular transitions of tone as they appear upon more and more pe-

[1] By "certain conditions"—the author means that external conditions remain constant, and the colors are equated in brightness and saturations.

[2] "A certain red"—*i. e.*, a stable red or one that undergoes no change in tone as its image is moved from the forea to the periphery. All four colors referred to are stable colors.